

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)
Assistant to the Democratic Leader
Ranking Member, Committee on the Budget
U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.
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Spratt Wins Funds for Fairfield County Airport Runway Extension

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) has secured \$375,000 for a much needed 500-foot runway extension at Fairfield County Airport in Winnsboro. The money was included in a spending bill Congress passed Thursday night.

The Fairfield County Airport has been valuable to the smaller communities it serves and a back-up to the general aviation airport in Columbia. It has also helped attract major industry to the area, such as Mack Truck, which recently shut its Winnsboro factory.

But while the existing runway length – 5,000 feet – is adequate for small business jets, it is unable to handle cargo-carrying or corporate aircraft. These aircraft can operate on a 5,000-foot runway if they are operating with reduced loads in favorable weather conditions, but when the runway is wet, they cannot operate safely.

“With its proximity to Columbia,” said Spratt, “Fairfield County should be ripe for economic development. In a year when the federal budget is tight, I am pleased to secure funds for an airport improvement that makes Fairfield County more attractive for industrial development.”

Spratt said the airport has conducted environmental assessments and feasibility studies that prove the viability of the extension and there has been no public opposition.

“Mack Truck was originally attracted to Fairfield County by the airport,” Spratt said. “The plant once employed more than a thousand workers, and Fairfield’s chances of locating a replacement industry will turn in part on the quality of its airport. I am pleased that these airport improvements will be funded, and I hope that the resulting business investment will put many of these people back to work.”

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